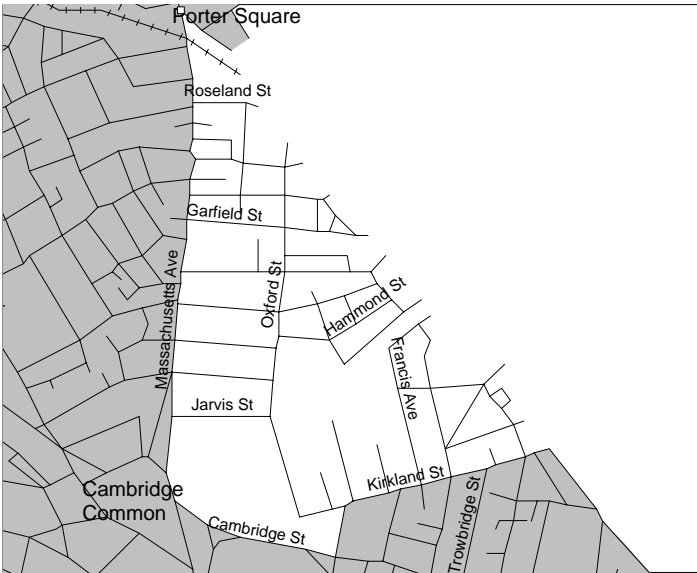
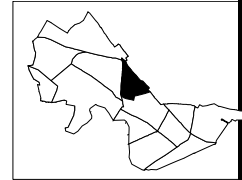


# NEIGHBORHOOD 8

## AGASSIZ



**BOUNDARIES:** bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

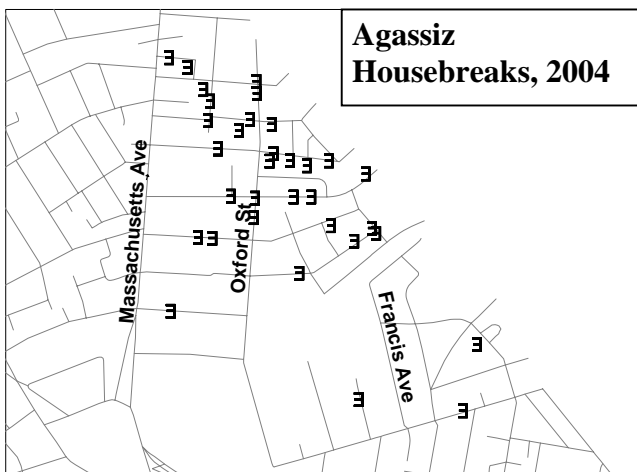
**POPULATION:** 5,241 residents  
1,891 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$36,853

Neighborhood #8 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 9R (1 officer). It is also covered by walking routes 8A, 8B, and 8C.

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2000 - 2004

CRIME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Housebreaks	20	26	46	24	36
Street Robbery	2	6	6	2	6
Auto Theft	12	12	19	15	10
Larceny from MVs	19	26	47	31	40
Malicious Destruction	30	27	27	12	18
Drug	1	0	2	1	1



### 2004 YEAR END REVIEW

- **Housebreaks** in Agassiz exhibited a 50% increase from 2003. The year in Agassiz actually began with a low three incidents in the first two months of the year, but was followed by a rash of breaks in a condominium complex on Garfield Street in early March. Five condos were entered by force and various items stolen, including laptops, cash and jewelry.

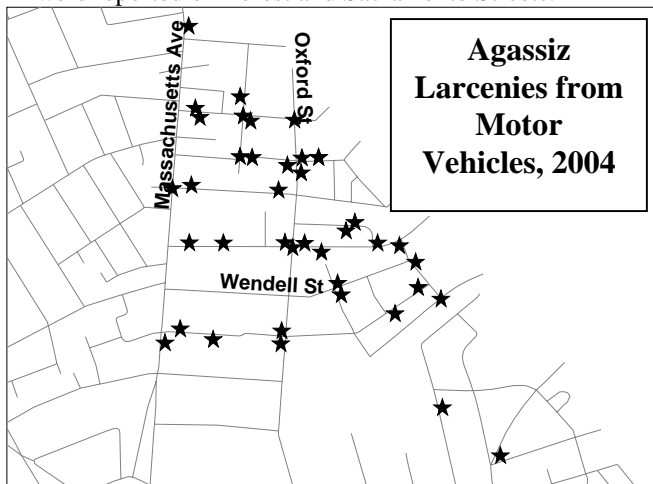
Overall, most targeted residences were apartments. Throughout the year, areas of multiple breaks included the 100 block of Oxford Street, and Eustis and Wendell Streets. Although housebreaks are

generally carried out during the daytime, in Agassiz breaks were evenly dispersed as daytime and nighttime burglaries. No housebreaks were reported in the neighborhood during the months of October and November.

- Although **street robberies** tripled from the previous year, they remained consistent with past years. No robberies were reported until late June, and basically one robbery a month followed until the end of the year. While there was no discernable pattern of related incidents, the trend in these six robberies was that they all took place between 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. and the perpetrators were all teenage to young adult males. The majority of incidents took place near the Somerville border, into which some perpetrators fled, and multiple incidents occurred on Museum and Forest Streets.

- Most **auto thefts** were reported during the second half of the year. Seventy percent of the stolen vehicles were recovered by year's end. Multiple thefts took place on Forest and Sacramento Streets. Only three attempted auto thefts were reported during the year. Two of those occurred in April and both vehicles were Acuras.

- **Malicious destruction of property** has been on the decline in Agassiz over the past five years, but between 2003 and 2004 there was a 50% increase. April recorded the highest number of incidents, as Saturdays emerged as the hot day for vandalism. However, aside from the attempted auto thefts, none of those incidents appeared to be related. Overall, there were no significant patterns or trends of vandalism in this neighborhood in 2004. Only one incident took place during the first quarter of the year, which was followed by an even distribution throughout the rest of the year of five to seven incidents a quarter. Multiple incidents were reported on Forest and Sacramento Streets.



- In addition to Forest and Sacramento Streets, multiple incidents of **larceny from motor vehicle** were reported on Oxford and Prentiss Streets. Incidents in these areas were concentrated during weekend days. The months of May and October recorded the most incidents. The first report of Honda/Acura tire theft in Agassiz was made in May. The trend reappeared in July, when one Audi headlight theft was also reported, and then again in October. All of the tire thefts in Agassiz were reported as taking place during the pre-dawn to early morning hours, and the vehicles were typically left propped up on crates and other materials.

- Only one **drug** arrest was made in this neighborhood in 2004. The incident resulted in the arrest of a man who attempted to sell marijuana to a by passer and was reported to the police, who promptly responded and found the man.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR AGASSIZ AREA TARGET CRIMES					
<i>Crime</i>	<i>1981-1990</i>	<i>Rank '81-'90*</i>	<i>1992-2003</i>	<i>Rank '92-'03*</i>	<i>Rank 2004*</i>
Housebreaks	67	8	27	8	10
Street Robbery	11	9	6	9	11
Auto Theft	45	12	17	11	12
Larceny from MVs	47	11	31	9	9
Malicious Destruction	45	11	26	9	12

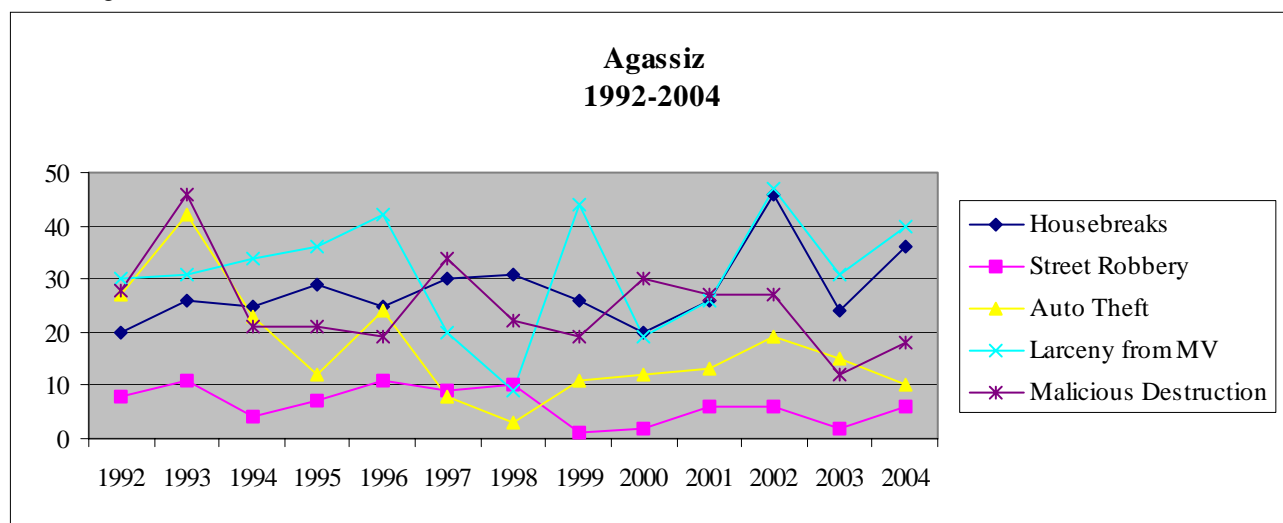
\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Over half of the Agassiz neighborhood is occupied by Harvard University and Lesley College. The rest of the residential population is concentrated primarily in a triangle in the northern section of the neighborhood, capped by bustling Porter Square. A number of businesses line Massachusetts Avenue on Agassiz's west border.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the southern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- Agassiz has a significantly lower than average rate for almost every measured crime. Unlike some other neighborhoods, only one of its borders is defined by a major, heavily trafficked avenue. Only four other neighborhoods have lower average **housebreak** and **larceny from motor vehicle** totals; only three other neighborhoods have lower average totals for **street robberies**, and Agassiz ranks as the third lowest neighborhood for **auto theft** and **malicious destruction**.
- Juveniles entering the neighborhood from Somerville were suspected in a pattern of **street robberies** in 1996 and 1997; such patterns arise every few years, usually clustered at the intersections of Massachusetts Avenue and Wendell Street or Oxford Avenue and Sacramento Street. These occasional patterns generally occur in the late night on weekends.
- Somerville juveniles have also been associated with occasional tire slashings on Forest Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The **malicious destruction** statistics reflect incidents of spray-painting at the Agassiz School.



## 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

No **auto theft** patterns emerged in Agassiz in 2003. About half of the 15 incidents occurred on or near the neighborhood's major street, Massachusetts Avenue. The usual Porter Square hotspot did not emerge this year, with only one incident reported in that area. • Each of the two **street robberies** in Agassiz were unsuccessful attempts. • 2003 brought a decrease in **larcenies from motor vehicles**. The most common means of entry was the breaking of a window. There were no significant hotspots for this crime in Agassiz this year, and in the majority of incidents the perpetrator left either empty-handed or with a small amount of change. • The sole **drug arrest** was for marijuana and methadone possession. • **Housebreaks** decreased significantly from 2002's total of 46. There were no patterns, although a third of the 24 incidents reported took place on Oxford St. Four Agassiz housebreaks resulted in arrests. • Agassiz enjoyed a record low number of **malicious destruction of property** incidents reported in 2003, representing a 56% decrease from the previous two years. Ten of the 12 incidents targeted cars, with smashed windows the most commonly reported vehicular damage. There were no sprees; Hammond and Sacramento were the only streets that saw more than one incident. As is common, the neighborhood's statistics for this crime were inflated somewhat by reports of graffiti around the Baldwin School.